

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

RICHARD DEAN MEARS,

Plaintiff,

v.

**Civil Action No. 3:07cv131
(Judge Bailey)**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS,**

Defendants.

**ORDER
GRANTING APPLICATION TO PROCEED
WITHOUT PREPAYMENT OF FEES**

On October 1, 2007, the *pro se* plaintiff, Richard Dean Mears, an inmate at FCI Elkton¹ filed this Federal Tort Claim Act. In addition to his Complaint, the plaintiff filed an Application for Leave to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees, a Consent to Collection of Fees from Trust Account and a Prisoner Trust Account Statement with copies of his ledger sheets.

28 U.S.C. § 1915 requires prisoners to pay the full filing fee, \$350.00, when bringing a civil action in forma pauperis. 28 U.S.C. § 1915 (b)(1) (1996). If, however, insufficient funds exist in the prisoner's account to pay the full filing fee at the time of filing, the court must assess and, when funds exist, collect an initial filing fee of twenty percent (20%) of the greater of the average monthly deposits to the prisoner's account or the average monthly balance in the prisoner's account for the prior six

¹The actions giving rise to the complaint occurred at FCI Morgantown, which is located in West Virginia. Accordingly, venue is proper in this Court.

month period. Id. Thereafter, the prisoner is required to make monthly payments of twenty percent (20%) of the preceding month's income. Id. The agency having custody of the prisoner must forward payments from the prisoner's account to the Clerk of Court each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00 until the filing fee is paid in full. Id. When filing an application to proceed without prepayment of fees, the prisoner must submit an affidavit alleging that he is unable to prepay court filing fees. The prisoner must include a statement of all assets that a prisoner possesses and a certified copy of the trust fund account statement for the prior six-month period. 28 U.S.C. §1915 (a)(1) & (2).

Because it appears that insufficient funds exist in the plaintiff's account to pay the full filing fee at this time, the plaintiff's request to proceed without prepayment of fees (Doc. 4) is **GRANTED**. The plaintiff's Prison Trust Account Report reflects that he had a balance of \$10.09 as of September 26, 2007, and a six month average balance of \$62.01. Accordingly, consistent with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1915, this Court hereby ORDERS that:

1. A copy of this Order shall be forwarded to the Trustee Officer of the institution having custody of the plaintiff along with a copy of the executed consent to collection of fees from trust account form. Pursuant to the consent to collection of fees from trust account form executed by the plaintiff, the Trustee Officer of the institution having custody of the plaintiff shall (a) forward to the Financial Deputy Clerk, in the form of a check or money order payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court," P. O. Box 1518, Elkins, West Virginia 26241, the initial filing fee of \$12.40 when the plaintiff has the funds to pay the initial filing fee and (b) automatically make monthly assessments upon the plaintiff's trust account of 20% of the preceding month's income toward the filing fee and shall forward such assessments to the Financial Deputy Clerk of Court in the form of a check or money order at the above-mentioned address each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00, until the full filing fee (\$350.00) is paid. Payments shall be clearly identified with the name and number assigned to this

action. At the time the filing fee is paid in full, the Financial Deputy of Court shall file with the Court a notice that the filing fee has been paid;

2. Upon the Financial Deputy Clerk's receipt of the initial partial filing fee, the Financial Deputy Clerk shall notify the Clerk of the appropriate district court that this initial partial filing fee has been paid.

3. Any recovery in this action will be subject to an applicable service of process fee assessed by the U.S. Marshal;

4. The plaintiff shall notify the Clerk of Court immediately upon his transfer or release and shall provide a new address if known. FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE COURT OF SUCH A CHANGE OF ADDRESS MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL OF THIS CASE WITHOUT PREJUDICE;

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Order to the plaintiff, to the Financial Deputy Clerk of Court, and to the Trustee Clerk of the institution having custody of the plaintiff.

DATED: October 12, 2007

/s/ James E. Seibert
JAMES E. SEIBERT
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE